

Building Capacity for Parental Involvement

To support partnerships among schools, parents, and communities that will improve student achievement, both the school and LEA are required to build the capacity of parents and school staff for strong parental involvement by--

- providing assistance to participating parents in understanding the National Education Goals, State content and performance standards, State and local assessments, and Title I, Part A requirements; monitoring their children's progress, working with educators to improve the performance of their children; and providing information on how parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
- providing materials and training, such as needed literacy training, not otherwise available, and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
- educating teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and staff, with the assistance of parents, on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, coordinate and implement parent programs, and build ties between home and school.
- coordinating and integrating parental involvement programs/activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool programs, and other programs, to the extent feasible and appropriate.
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses and encouraging partnerships between elementary, middle, and secondary schools.
- conducting other activities, as appropriate and feasible, such as parent resource centers and opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing (beginning at the birth of a child), that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children.
- ensuring, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the home of participating children in the language parents can understand.

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement, each school and local educational agency may--

- involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training in improving instruction and services to participating children.
- provide necessary literacy training if the LEA has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funds.

- pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school meetings and training sessions.
- train and support parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- maximize opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities by arranging meetings at a variety of times, such as in the mornings and evenings.
- arrange for teachers or other educators to conduct in-home conferences with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school.
- adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement, such as Even Start.

To ensure effective parental involvement and to support a school-parent-community partnership, each school and local educational agency shall--

- provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Part A as parents may request.